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NEWS RELEASE

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Maureen Henry Leads Commission on Aging

Maureen Henry began today as executive director of Utah's new Commission on Aging, and former First Lady Norma Matheson will serve as Honorary Chair. The group's first meeting will be in September.

"Utah's senior population is growing at twice the national rate. Our 65-plus population will increase 165 percent over the next 25 years," Henry said. "Because aging issues affect everyone, the commission will take a global look at them."

"I wanted to be involved because I've worked on senior issues for 30 years and now I am a senior," said Matheson who also represents the general public on the commission. "I was on the state Aging Board for nine years and have continued to be interested in senior issues."

Matheson first became aware of senior issues during her late husband Scott's first campaign for Governor when she visited every senior center in Utah.

The two-year commission was created by the Legislature and appointed by Gov. Jon M. Huntsman Jr. due to the state's rapidly growing aging population. By the year 2015, one Utahn will turn 65 every 23 minutes. Other commission members represent the private and public sectors.

"A number of problems the elderly face are not fully addressed by the system, including prescription-drug payment, long-term care and financial exploitation," Henry said. "We also need to communicate with and educate younger people on healthy aging and financial security. You must start early for both."

Most recently Henry was an attorney with Henry & Ciccarello, specializing in legal problems of the elderly.